

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D. C. 20554

OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR

JUN 1 8 2004

Willie B. Adams
Business Manager
D&E Communications of Ohio
WABQ Inc.
8000 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103

Re: Fiscal Year 2003 Regulatory Fee Fee Control No. 00000RROG-04-051 Bill No. 0420000086

Dear Mr. Adams:

This is in response to your request, dated March 9, 2004 filed on behalf of D&E Communications of Ohio (D&E Communications), for waiver of the late payment penalty associated with the fiscal year (FY) 2003 regulatory fees for WABQ Inc. Our records indicate that we received D&E Communication's FY 2003 regulatory fees of \$3,200.00 for stations WABQ and WRTK on October 31, 2003 but that you have not paid the \$800.00 late payment penalty.

In support of your request, you state that you were missing a Payer FRN and an Applicant FRN. Upon calling, you were told you could obtain your FRN on the internet, but that your computers had a problem that required days to resolve, and that then your phone lines were not working because your long distance was "slammed." Once you obtained forms and mailed them, you state that they were returned due to an error, which you corrected and resent the forms. Further, you state that you are a small operation billing less than \$500,000 annually and that after expenses you just break even each month.

The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires the Commission to assess a late payment penalty of 25 percent on any regulatory fee not paid in a timely manner. It is the obligation of the licensees responsible for regulatory fee payments to ensure that the Commission receives the fee payment at the designated address no later than the final date on which regulatory fees are due for the year. We find that D&E Communications of Ohio did not meet its obligation to file its regulatory fee to be timely received by the Commission by September 25, 2003, the final date of the regulatory fee filing window for FY 2003. We therefore deny your request for waiver of the penalty for late payment of the FY 2003 regulatory fee.

Willie B. Adams 2.

Further, although D&E Communications may have been unaware of the Commission's requirement that persons and entities doing business with the Commission obtain an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and supply it with payment transactions (including when paying regulatory fees), this also provides no basis for a waiver of the late charge penalty. The Commission has required persons and entities to use an FCC Registration Number when doing business with the Commission since December 3, 2001. The adoption of this requirement followed public notice and comment and was published in the Federal Register. Therefore, your request for a waiver of the late charge penalty for late payment of the FY 2003 regulatory fee is denied.

A late payment penalty in the amount of \$800.00 for FY 2003 is now due. The fee must be filed, together with a copy of Bill No. 0420000086 (copy enclosed), within 30 days from the date of this letter. If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact the Revenue and Receivables Operations Group at (202) 418-1995.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Reger

Chief Financial Officer

Enclosure

See Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 61, 73, 74 and 76 of the Commission's Rules, Adoption of a Mandatory FCC Registration Number, Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 16138, 16143 (2001) ("persons and entities doing business with the Commission [are required] to acquire an FRN and to provide it with all applications or feeable filings as well as other transactions involving the payment of money."), published at 66 Fed. Reg. 47890 (2001); see also Public Notice, FCC's Fee Filer Available for Online Submission of Fiscal Year 2002, Regulatory Fees and Data, 17 FCC Rcd 15412 (2002) ("[Regulatory fee p]ayments received without an FRN will be retained by the Commission, which will notify the filer that the payment was received without an FRN and that proper credit will not occur until the FRN is provided."); Regulatory Fees Fact Sheet, "Use of the FCC Registration Number (FRN) is Mandatory," July, 2003 ("If you do not yet have a FRN, you register for one through the FCC website listed below, or by completing a Form 160 (CORES Registration Form) and submitting the Form 160 along with your payment and Form 159.")

² See Adoption of a Mandatory FCC Registration Number, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 15 FCC Rcd 24370 (2000), published at 65 Fed. Reg. 78455 (2000); see also supra fn. 1.

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ACCOUNT PROCESSING GROUP-DPT/RPT/IMT

Claudette E. Pride, Chief Federal Communication Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

March 9, 2004

Re: Bill No. 0420000086 D & E Communications Of Ohio, WARQ

Dear Ms. Pride:

We received your letter dated March 3, 2004, and the accompanying bill for \$800.00.

We have sent this letter to explain the circumstances causing the fee to be received late. We received the forms to fill out, however we were missing the Payer FRN, and the Applicant FRN. When I called to get it I was told that I could get it through the internet. We then had a problem with our computers and waited for days to get it resolved. Once we got the computers working our phone lines were not working properly due to "slamming" of our long distance. We never got that worked out so we had to figure out a way to get the information. Somehow the owner did get the information and we forwarded the payment and the forms. The forms and the payment were returned due to an error, and we had to correct it and resend them.

We are a very small operation billing less than \$500,000 annually. Once our normal expenses are paid we are just breaking even every month. Even though we are growing the process is very slow. We are trying to upgrade studio equipment, and a traffic system which, we haven't been able to do yet. Our format is Heritage Gospel and our clients are small to medium churches.

Ms. Pride is there any way to get this fee waved for this period? We will make every effort to assure that the fees in the future are paid on time.

Thank you,

Sincerely

Willie B. Adams Business Manager

MAR 2 6 2004



Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

March 3, 2004

WABQ Inc 8000 Euclid Ave Cleveland, OH 44103

Re: Bill No. 0420000086

Dear Licensee:

This letter is notice that you were late paying your 2003 annual regulatory fee(s). Payment of regulatory fees was due to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by 11:59 pm, September 25, 2003. Your fee payment of \$3,200.00 was received on October 31, 2003.

In accordance with Section 9 [47 USC 159(c)(1)], a 25 percent late penalty in the amount of \$800.00 has been assessed. Unless you can show just cause why the penalty is inapplicable, payment is due within 30 days from the date of this letter.

Payment should be sent to the Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, P.O. Box 358340, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5340, along with a copy of the enclosed billing invoice.

If you have any documentation that will establish that the fee was remitted and received at Mellon Bank by September 25, 2003, such as a carrier dated receipt, please include this documentation with your response and your record(s) will be adjusted accordingly.

You are cautioned that failure to respond and/or pay the penalty will subject you to further sanctions as defined in 47 CFR, Section 1.1164 of our Rules. These sanctions include subjecting the delinquent payer's pending applications to dismissal, and may require a delinquent payer to show cause why any existing instruments of authorization should not be revoked. Further sanctions include interest charges and the full cost of collection to the Federal government pursuant to Section 3720A of the Internal Revenue Code, 31 USC 3717, and the provision of the Debt Collection Improvement Act, 31 USC 3717.

If you have any questions, you may contact my office at (202) 418-1995.

Sincerely,

Claudette E. Pride, Chief

Vandette & Brile

Revenue and Receivables Operations Group

Enclosure

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Total Applied:

PAGE 1 4/06/2004 11:56:12

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